

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being amended, added or canceled.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Double Patenting:

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14 and 16 of U.S. Patent No. 7,050,570 to Suzuki et al. By way of a filing of a terminal disclaimer concurrently with this Reply, this rejection has been overcome.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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